

# MONTANA STATE LIBRARY

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# Montana Library Association



## INTERIM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MULTITYPE LIBRARY COOPERATION

The Library Development Committee of the Montana Library Association has met to plan the implementation of multitype library cooperation in the state of Montana. The following definition of multitype library cooperation has been adopted:

Multitype library cooperation is defined as combinations, mergers or contractual associations of two or more types of libraries (academic, public, special, or school) crossing jurisdictional, institutional, or political boundaries, working together to achieve maximum effective use of funds to provide library and information services to all persons above and beyond those which can be provided through one institution. Such cooperative agencies may be designed to serve a community, a metropolitan area, a region within a region, or may serve a state-wide or multistate area.

A recognized principle of good library service is that cooperation and resource sharing among libraries of all types in an area can provide the most effective, equitable and economical service. To this end, the Library Development Committee has established the following goals:

1. To improve access to library service by strengthening all types of libraries beginning at the local level.
2. To ensure Montana citizens the most effective and efficient use of the resources of all Montana libraries by formulating and recommending a program for multitype library cooperation and resource sharing.
3. To develop a strong intrastate network based on existing federation areas to include all types of libraries; to ensure that intrastate networking is done within the context of interstate, regional and nationwide networks.

In order to achieve these goals and to implement multitype library cooperation in Montana, the Library Development Committee makes recommendations in these areas:

### 1. FUNDING

During the present biennium 43% of the State Library budget is provided from Library Services and Construction Act funds and this drastically reduces the amount of federal dollars which are available for grants to the library federations. The entire LSCA appropriation (which in 1978 totals \$403,000) should be available for grants which could include multitype library cooperation projects.

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

### RECOMMENDATION

THE STATE LIBRARY BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE 1980-81 BIENNIIUM, WHICH WILL BE \$706,000 SHOULD BE PROVIDED ENTIRELY FROM GENERAL FUND DOLLARS.

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Helena, Montana 59601

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This increase does not meet the ultimate needs of libraries in Montana, but this seems to be the most reasonable first basic request at this time, leading to eventual full state aid to libraries.

Providing \$706,000 in general fund dollars for the State Library budget frees up \$403,000 LSCA funds which can be used in support of multitype library efforts in some of the following ways.

## 11. ACTIVITIES

Expansion and strengthening of the present intrastate network (Montana Information Network and Exchange) to include all types of libraries. Activities undertaken to expand and strengthen the present network would be done in the spirit of maintaining the identity and character of individual libraries. At the same time, their range of services and their means to deliver them would be increased through sharing of each library's resources.

Activities recommended to accomplish multitype library cooperation are listed below. Activities are not necessarily limited to this list.

- A. Development of computerized circulation systems in Montana libraries which are compatible with one another and with the Washington Library Network in which MINE will participate.
- B. Development of specialized collections through cooperative acquisitions and pooling. For example:
  - (1) serials;
  - (2) specialized and expensive reference materials;
  - (3) microfiche technical report literature with supporting fiche to fiche printing capabilities;
  - (4) non print media collection;
  - (5) A-V equipment pools with maintenance and repair capabilities - to be shared by all libraries on a federation-wide basis;
  - (6) expansion of the State Library's library literature collection to include materials for all types of libraries, including a collection of library policy statements.
- C. Development of a strong information program at

the local level, federation level, and/or state-wide, which will stimulate all types of libraries to participate in cooperative activities and which will inform the public about their greater access to all libraries.

- D. Development of effective delivery systems through several means, including:
  - (1) inner-city vehicles in the larger cities;
  - (2) intra-city vehicles by region, i.e., Western and Eastern Montana, or federation-wide;
  - (3) develop methods which would allow for photocopy access to materials in libraries not traditionally capable of handling a large volume of photocopy requests, i.e., special and school libraries, and private college libraries;
  - (4) rapid transfer means such as satellite technology, telefacsimile, and cable television.
- E. Expand and update the Union List of Montana Serials.
- F. Develop a state corporate author authority file for Montana state documents.
- G. Implementation of a universal borrower's card.
- H. Creation of a newsletter to be used for communication among all members of the network.
- I. Establish a continuing education program for library staffs through the Montana State Library in order to:
  - (1) disseminate information appropriate to continuing education for all types of librarians in Montana.
    - (a) Directory of library resources which would identify:
      - i. primary clientele served;
      - ii. library-use policies of individual libraries;
      - iii. collection and service specialization;
      - iv. professional expertise.

- (b) Compilation of sample library policies and procedures.
  - (c) Compilation of all library education courses offered in the state and region.
- (2) develop and implement continuing education programs which will:
- (a) keep current through formal and informal assessments of the continuing education needs of Montana's librarians
  - (b) give special attention to encouraging and educating librarians in the use of multitype library systems
  - (c) develop and implement workshops, written information and other continuing education functions
  - (d) develop and implement an outreach program specific to the needs of the small rural libraries.

#### 111. MULTITYPE LIBRARY GOVERNANCE

The Library Development Committee and the Sub-Committee in its considerations has discussed two approaches to governance of multitype library cooperation.

Present Montana law provides for library federations under Sec. 44-212, R.C.M. 1947 as follows:

A library federation is a combination of libraries serving a multi-county, multi-city, or city-county area within a federation area designated by the State Library Commission.

Sec. 44-214, R.C.M. 1947 provides for a federation advisory board of trustees as follows:

"The board of trustees of each participating library shall name one of their members to the federation advisory board of trustees and each participating entity without a duly appointed library board shall name a layman to represent that entity on the library federation board of trustees."

The existing structure could allow for multitype library participation in a federation and representation on the federation advisory board with the following change:

- a. Legislative change which would expand the definition of public libraries to include any publicly funded library in the state to include public school and public academic libraries. An additional clause allowing non-publicly funded libraries to participate in the systems would be required which would include

private school and academic libraries as well as special libraries.

An alternative structure for multitype library systems could be established which would create multitype library councils on a geographical basis identical to federations areas. All types of libraries would have representation on the councils.

#### RECOMMENDATION

The Library Development Committee has not had sufficient time to determine what would be the best governance structure for multitype library systems in Montana. More study will be required to develop a plan. In the interim, the Library Development Committee recommends that any multitype library cooperative activities that are being considered in a federation area be reviewed by the federation advisory boards which should be expanded for that specific purpose to include representatives from all types of libraries in that area.



